

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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S/AB - AMB. BUNKER (SUBS.)

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DOD:OSD/ISA:COL. SHAHA (SUBS.)

DOD:ODUSA:COL. WALTON (SUBS.)

DOD:JCS:MR. PARKER (SUBS.)

L/ARA:DAGANTZ (DRAFT)

----- 006007

P R 122254Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

INFO USCINCSO

GOV PANCANAL

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E.O. 11651:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF 1950 HIGHWAY CONVENTION

REF: PANAMA 2144 AND PANAMA 1744

1. PURSUANT TO CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY, EMBASSY IS HEREBY
AUTHORIZED TO SEND GOP THE FOLLOWING NOTE STATING THE USG'S
INTENTION TO TERMINATE THE 1950 HIGHWAY CONVENTION IN AC-
CORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3, ARTICLE XI.

2. BEGIN QUOTE EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO
THE HIGHWAY CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA SIGNED AT PANAMA CITY ON SEPTEM-

BER 14, 1950, AND TO ARTICLE XI, PARAGRAPH 3, OF SAID CONVENTION WHEREIN IT IS STIPULATED THAT 'EITHER HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY MAY, BY GIVING ONE YEAR'S WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE OTHER HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY, TERMINATE THE PRESENT CONVENTION AT THE END OF THE INITIAL TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER.'

3. YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT IN AMBASSADOR SAYRE'S NOTE NO. 128 OF JULY 17, 1973, HE REFERRED TO THE MEETING OF JULY 29, 1971, OF THE JOINT HIGHWAY BOARD DURING WHICH THE UNITED STATES MEMBERS INFORMED THE PANAMANIAN MEMBERS THAT, IN ADDITION TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE UNDER ARTICLE I OF THE 1950 HIGHWAY CONVENTION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO REHABILITATE THE BOYD-ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY FROM ITS INTERSECTION AT RANDOLPH ROAD TO NEAR THE INTERSECTION WITH THE TOCUMEN AIRPORT ROAD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY. YOUR EXCELLENCY ALSO WILL RECALL THAT THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED PERIODICALLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE REHABILITATION WORK, AS IN ITS NOTE NO. 67 OF APRIL 10, 1974.

4. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO TERMINATE THE 1950 HIGHWAY CONVENTION AS THE TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACCEPTED FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE BOYD-ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY HAS NOW RUN ITS COURSE. THE QUESTION OF TERMINATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. THIS NOTE, THEREFORE, CONSTITUTES NOTIFICATION IN WRITING OF THE UNITED STATES DESIRE TO TERMINATE THE CONVENTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE XI.

5. ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY
LIC. JUAN ANTONIO TACK,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
PANAMA. END QUOTE
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